Tax free status of maturity proceeds of Bima Nivesh

2702. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Insurance Companies both in public and private sector have represented Government to retain tax free status of maturity proceeds of insurance policies such as Bima Nivesh etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government on the representations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Finance Bill 2003 has proposed an amendment to withdraw the exemption under section 10(10D) of the Income-tax Act to any sum received under an insurance policy in respect of which the premium paid in any of the years during the term of the policy exceeds 20% of the actual sum assured. In the repesentations received, request has been made for withdrawal of the proposed amendment.

(c) The matter is under consideration and the Government's response, if any, will be reflected in the Government-moved amendments to the Finance Bill 2003.

Floating of special purpose vehicles by States

2703. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have asked State Governments not to float Special Purpose Vehicles without its approval;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what are the States' contingent liabilities as on 31st March, 2003 and their percentage to GDP; and

(d) the steps being taken to help States to reduce the contingent liabilities?